

Grove Street Cemetery Entrance
227 Grove Street
New Haven County
New Haven, Connecticut

HABS No. CONN-275
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5. NEWHA

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
1730 North Lynn Street
Arlington, Virginia

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. CONN-275

GROVE STREET CEMETERY ENTRANCE

Location: 227 Grove Street (north side of Grove Street between Prospect and Ashmun Streets), New Haven County, New Haven, Connecticut.

Present Owner: New Haven City Burial Ground, Inc.
227 Grove Street, New Haven, Conn.

Present Occupant: Not applicable

Present Use: Entrance to cemetery.

Statement of Significance: Designed by Henry Austin in 1845; an outstanding example of Egyptian Revival architecture.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: New Haven City Burial Ground, Incorporated (also called the Grove Street Cemetery Association). It has remained in the same title since its construction in 1845-8.
2. Date of erection: 1845-8.
3. Architect: Henry Austin, 1804-1891
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: One watercolor of south elevation by Henry Austin is in the Beinecke Rare Book Library, Yale University.
5. Alterations and additions: None.
6. Important old views: Architect's elevation, vide supra.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

Grove Street Cemetery contains the graves of many illustrious men:

Presidents of Yale:

Thomas Clap (1703-67)
Naphtali Daggett (1727-80), who died as a result of injuries

GROVE STREET CEMETERY ENTRANCE
HABS No. CONN-275 (Page 2)

received at the hands of a British officer during the
invasion of New Haven.

Ezra Stiles (1727-95)
Timothy Dwight (1752-1817)
Jeremiah Day (1773-1867)
Theodore D. Woolsey (1801-89)
Noah Porter (1811-92), eleventh president of Yale
Timothy Dwight 2d (1829-1916)
Arthur T. Hadley (1856-1930)

Scholars:

Noah Webster (1758-1843), compiler of the first American
dictionary.
Jedediah Morse (1761-1826), American geographer, father
of Samuel F. B. Morse, painter and inventor of the
telegraph.
Reverend Lyman Beecher (1775-1863), reformer, father of
Harriet Beecher Stowe and Henry Ward Beecher.
Benjamin Silliman (1779-1864), chemist
Elias Loomis (1811-89), mathematician.
James D. Dana (1813-95), geologist
Edward E. Salisbury (1814-1901), orientalist
William Dwight Whitney (1827-94), linguist
Josiah Willard Gibbs (1839-1903), founder of the science
of physical chemistry.

Statesmen:

Roger Sherman (1721-1793). Sherman was the only man to
sign all four fundamental documents on which the United
States government is based: the Articles of Association
in 1774; the Declaration of Independence, 1776; the
Articles of Confederation in 1778; and the Federal Con-
stitution of 1787.
Senator James Hillhouse (1753-1832)
Jehudi Ashmun (1794-1828), first Colonial agent to Liberia.

Military men:

General David Humphreys (1752-1818), Revolutionary diplomat,
pioneer industrialist, and the first man to introduce
merino sheep in America.
Admiral Andrew H. Foote (1806-63)
Theodore Winthrop (1828-1861), novelist, and one of the
first officers killed in action in the Civil War.
General Alfred Howe Terry (1829-1890), hero of the battle
of Fort Fisher before the fall of Wilmington, N.C. in 1865.

GROVE STREET CEMETERY ENTRANCE
HABS No. CONN-275 (Page 3)

Inventors:

Eli Whitney (1765-1825), inventor of the cotton gin.
Chauncey Jerome (1793-1868), pioneer clockmaker.
Eli Whitney Blake (1795-1886), nephew of Eli Whitney,
inventor of a stone crushing machine.
Charles Goodyear (1800-1860), inventor of vulcanized rubber.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources: Arnold G. Dana,
"New Haven Old and New," unpublished scrapbooks in the
archives of the New Haven Colony Historical Society,
114 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, Connecticut.
2. Secondary and published sources: Federal Writers Project,
Connecticut, Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1938, pp. 237-8.

Prepared by: Jonathan B. Conant
Research Assistant
National Park Service
August 31, 1964

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Noteworthy example of
Egyptian Revival gate architecture of monumental pro-
portions.
2. Condition of fabric: Good. Some of the sandstone and
ornamental motifs have become weathered and spalled.

B. Detailed Description:

1. Overall dimensions: Structure measures 48'-1" x 18'-0"
with overall height of 25'-0" from pavement to top of
cornice. Portals measure 18'-0" in height with
pedestrian ways 5'5-1/4" wide and center carriage-way
11'-9-1/2".
2. Foundation: Not accessible.
3. Wall construction: The exterior faces are battered

GROVE STREET CEMETERY ENTRANCE
HABS No. CONN-275 (Page 4)

and faced with red sandstone in random range ashlar pattern.

4. Doorways and doors: On inner face of each pylon is a large cast-iron door hung on pintles embedded in the masonry. Doors have four recessed panels with foliated moldings. The two pedestrian ways and the carriage-way are equipped with cast-iron gates. The gate of the carriage-way is double. Gates have spear-headed palings and horizontal bands of triangular and circular motifs.
5. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Low hipped roof covered with asphaltic material. Copper downspouts are fitted through the cornice at each side.
 - b. Cornice: The battered walls terminate in a deep cavetto cornice.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The triple portal is flanked by two masonry pylons incorporating a small room in each. Access to these rooms is through cast-iron doors. The solid lintels over porticos are supported on the (south) front by columns derived from prototypes in the Temple of Ammon at Luxor and on the rear by two unadorned square piers.
2. Flooring: Black asphalt pavement in portico. Rooms in pylons are brick paved.
3. Decorative features and trim: The two sandstone columns on the south front are heavily decorated by reeding, and fluting interrupted by banding. Capitals are lotus bud type.

The stone lintel on south face is incised in 7-1/2" high letters with the following inscription: THE DEAD SHALL BE RAISED. In the architect's original drawing, the lintel is adorned with a winged solar disk flanked by vultures (the ancient Egyptian symbol of protection) in lieu of the inscription. As executed, this ornament is positioned in the cornice over the center portal. The cavetto cornice is ornamented with an incised vertical repeat motif. Framing the exterior corners and continuing as a band between the cornice and wall is a torus molding with incised banding. Old bell from first

GROVE STREET CEMETERY ENTRANCE
HABS No. CONN-275 (Page 5)

cemetary (on the New Haven Green), formerly rung during burial services, is attached to north face of east pylon.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The entrance is located on the north side of Grove Street opposite High Street. The cemetery is bounded by Grove Street on the south, Prospect Street on the east, Ashmun Street on the northwest, Lock Street on the north, and a New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad track on the northeast. Cast-iron fence flanking gate faces Woolsey Hall, Yale dining hall, Book and Snake Club, east of High Street and the Yale Law School west of High Street.
2. Enclosures: A fence of cast-iron spear-topped palings flanks gate along Grove Street. Supports at regular intervals are composed of cast-iron elements, square in plan with tall rectangular openings on all four faces. Cavetto cornice blocks bearing winged solar disks are capped by covered urns. Rest of cemetery is enclosed by walls of battered random ashlar sandstone masonry.
3. Outbuildings: Brick one-story gabled slate-roofed Gothic revival building containing caretaker's office is on axis with gate a short distance inside grounds. Subsidiary south gable facing gate bears large gilded butterfly, Egyptian symbol of immortality.
4. Walks: Asphalt-paved walks meander through grounds.
5. Landscaping: Informal planting in 19th-century romantic manner.

Prepared by: Woodrow W. Wilkins
Supervisory Architect
National Park Service
August 3, 1964

GROVE STREET CEMETERY ENTRANCE
HABS No. CONN-275 (Page 6)

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records and four sheets of measured drawings were prepared as part of the Summer, 1964 New Haven Project, jointly undertaken by the New Haven Preservation Trust, and financed by "Mission 66" funds of the National Park Service with assistance from the NHPT, following a 1963 HABS inventory survey of old New Haven carried out by the NHPT under the direction of Professor Christopher Tunnard of Yale University, President.

The project was under the direction of the Eastern Office of Design and Construction, James C. Massey, HABS Supervisory Architect, and was supervised by Architect Woodrow W. Wilkins, Professor of Architecture at the University of Kentucky, assisted by Ned Goode, Photographer, Frazier, Pennsylvania; Annette H. M. Gottschalk, William P. Hersey, and Charles R. Tichy, Student Assistant Architects and students at Carnegie Institute of Technology, Yale University, and Iowa State University, respectively; and Jonathan B. Conant, Research Assistant and student at Yale University.